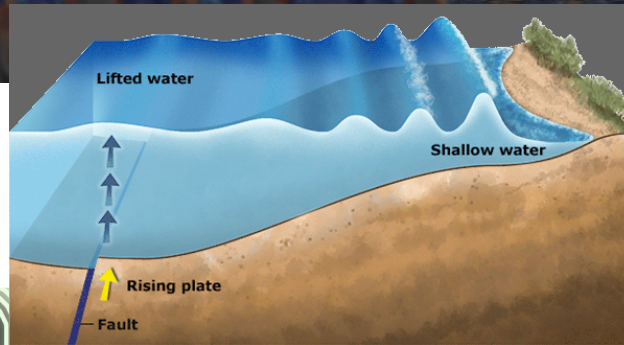


TSUNAMIS!

By Chris Sims



What is a tsunami?

Tsunami, «tsoo NAH mee», is a series of powerful ocean waves produced by an earthquake, landslide, volcanic eruption, or asteroid impact. Tsunami waves can travel great distances and still retain much of their strength. They differ from common ocean waves, which are caused by wind.



What are some real life examples?

In March 2011 Japan was struck by a powerful underwater earthquake centered in the Pacific Ocean off the coast of Honshu, the country's main island. The quake caused widespread damage on land and triggered a series of large tsunami waves that devastated many coastal areas of Japan, most notably northeastern Honshu. The tsunami also caused a major nuclear accident at a power station along the Pacific coast.

The 2011 earthquake and tsunami were together one of the deadliest natural disasters in Japanese history, rivaling the earthquake and tsunami that occurred in the same region in June, 1896. The official total for the number of people confirmed dead or listed as missing from the 2011 disaster was about 18,500. However, other estimates gave a final toll of at least 20,000. Miyagi Prefecture suffered the greatest losses, with some 10,800 killed or missing and another 4,100 injured. The great majority of those killed were drowning victims of the tsunami waves.

WHAT TO DO IF YOU ARE ON LAND DURING A TSUNAMI?

Ensure that you do the following during a land tsunami:

1. Go to higher ground, at least ten meters above sea level, or if possible move at least one kilometer away from all beaches and the water's edge of harbors and coastal estuaries.
2. Take only essential items that you can carry including important papers, family photographs and medical needs.
3. It may be in your own interests to walk to safety if possible to avoid traffic jams.
4. If you cannot leave the area, take shelter in the upper story of a sturdy brick or concrete multi-story building.
5. Do not go to the coast to watch the tsunami, as there is the possibility of dangerous flooding when the tsunami hits land.

Where do most tsunamis take place?

Most tsunamis, about 80 percent, happen within the Pacific Ocean's "Ring of Fire," a geologically active area where tectonic shifts make volcanoes and earthquakes common.



BEFORES AND AFTERS



Before

After



Before

After



Before



After



Before

After